

Assistant Director (Personnel)

Chief, Medical Staff

Payment of Medical Expenses

3 23 December 1952

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 9 December 1952, subject, Payment of Medical Expenses.

2. The Medical Office agrees in the principle of Agency responsibility for medical care of personnel serving overseas. In the past, the Medical Office has questioned the appropriateness of the interpretation of hospitalization authority as promulgated by the State Department. The fact that the State Department has encountered no difficulties in this regard has not served to eliminate reasonable doubt. It should also be pointed out that the provisions of hospitalization authority require not only broad interpretation of the term "line of duty" but unfounded interpretation of the term "hospitalization", and that the provisions of eligibility are extended arbitrarily beyond the limitations contained in the Foreign Service Act.

3. It seems more fitting to the Medical Office, rather than attempting to fit Agency requirements into legislative framework not originally intended for such purpose, that the authority required by the Agency for proper medical support be obtained and defined through the special powers of the Director. It is believed that the following authority would meet Agency requirements:

a. The Agency will provide, on behalf of any CIA employee or agent having employee's rights and benefits, medical care for illness and injury incurred or aggravated while on route to, serving at, or returning from any overseas assignment, inclusive of hospitalization, provided such illness or injury is not the result of misconduct.

b. In order to effect adequate medical care as outlined above, the Agency will provide for the transportation of patients to the most suitable hospital or clinic as required.

c. Care of dependents is basically the responsibility of the employee. However, in those areas where adequate medical facilities do not exist for the care of dependents, the Agency will either provide adequate medical care or provide transportation to the nearest locality where a suitable hospital or clinic does exist, and on recovery, effect the transportation of return as required.

4. It is requested that the Personnel Office consider the position of the Medical Office as outlined above and make appropriate comment as indicated. Representatives of the Medical Office will be glad to meet with representatives of the Personnel Office for purposes of further discussion, if such action should be considered helpful.

JOHN R. TIETJEN, M. D.

MO/JRT:me (23 Dec.'52)

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